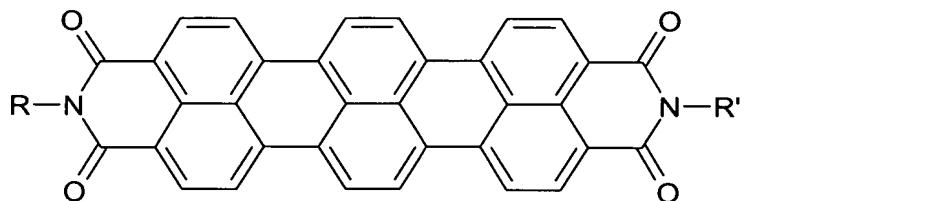


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing terylene-3,4:11,12-tetracarboximides of the general formula I



in which the variables are each defined as follows:

R, R' are each independently ~~hydrogen~~ hydrogen;

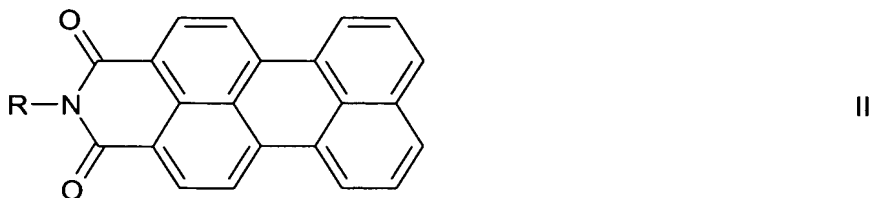
C₁-C₃₀-alkyl whose carbon chain may be interrupted by one or more -O-, -S-, -NR¹-, -CO- and/or -SO₂- moieties and which may be mono- or polysubstituted by cyano, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, aryl which may be substituted by C₁-C₁₈-alkyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, and/or a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic radical bonded via a nitrogen atom which may contain further heteroatoms and be aromatic;

C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl whose carbon skeleton may be interrupted by one or more -O-, -S- and/or -NR¹- moieties, and/or which may be mono- or polysubstituted by C₁-C₆-alkyl;

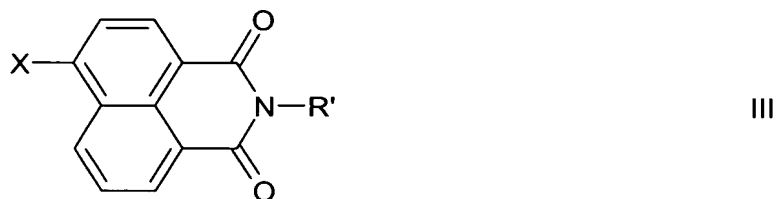
aryl or hetaryl which may be mono- or polysubstituted by C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, cyano, halogen, -CONHR² and/or aryl- or hetarylazo, each of which may be substituted by C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or cyano;

R¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

R^2 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl; aryl or hetaryl, each of which may be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, halogen, hydroxyl, carboxyl or cyano, which comprises reacting a perylene-3,4-dicarboximide of the general formula II



in the presence of a base-stable, high-boiling organic solvent and [[of]] an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal base, with a naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximide of the general formula III



in which X is hydrogen, bromine or chlorine.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent [[used]] is an aprotic organic solvent.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent [[used]] is a polar-protic organic solvent.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent ~~[[used]]~~ is a nonpolar-aprotic organic solvent.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent ~~[[used]]~~ is a protic organic solvent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent ~~[[used]]~~ is a solvent containing amino and hydroxyl functions.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the base used is a strong inorganic or organic alkali metal base.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the base used is an alkali metal alkoxide.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein a nitrogen base having lesser nucleophilic action is additionally used as an auxiliary base.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is undertaken at temperatures ranging from 50 to 210°C.